

Appl. No. 10/082,361
Amdt. Dated April 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 81752.0127
Customer No. 26021

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A card-making method of making an authentication card from a raw card having a readable and writable information-storing portion formed therein, by forming an image on at least one of a front surface and a back surface of the raw card and writing individual authentication information in the information-storing portion,

the card-making method comprising the steps of:

writing processing information of the raw card in the information-storing portion;

forming the image based on the processing information read from the information-storing portion; and

writing individual authentication information of the authentication card in the information-storing portion after forming the image.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 1, wherein the step of forming the image comprises the steps of:

printing the image on an ink image-receiving sheet by using a sublimable dye ink,

overlaying the ink image-receiving sheet to a surface of the raw card after the printing step, and

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thermally transferring the sublimable dye ink from the ink image-receiving sheet onto the surface of the raw card by heating the ink image-receiving sheet after the overlaying step.

4 (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 1, wherein the step of writing and individual authentication information includes rewriting the processing information to the individual authentication information.

11. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 1, wherein the individual authentication information comprises card-making information including a date of making of the authentication card.

12. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 1, further including the step of storing the processing information as history information of the authentication card prior to the writing step.

13. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 1, further including the step of writing source identification information of the raw card in the information-storing portion prior to the step of forming the image.

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14. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 13, wherein the source identification information comprises production information including a date of production of the raw card.

15. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 1, wherein the information-storing portion includes a processing information-storing portion for storing the processing information, and an authentication information-storing portion for storing the individual authentication information, which have been formed in the raw card, independently of each other.

16. (Original): A card-making method of making an authentication card from a raw card having a readable and writable information-storing portion formed therein, by forming an image on at least one of a front surface and a back surface of the raw card and writing individual authentication information in the information-storing portion,

the card-making method comprising the step of writing source identification information of the raw card in the information-storing portion.

17. (Original): A card-making method according to claim 16, wherein the source identification information comprises production information including a date of production of the raw card.

18. (Original): A card-making system for making an authentication card from a raw card having a readable and writable information-storing portion formed therein, by forming an image on at least one of a front surface and a back surface of the raw card and writing individual authentication information in the information-storing portion,

the card-making system comprising:

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processing information-writing means for writing processing information of the raw card in the information-storing portion;

processing information readout means for reading out the processing information from the information-storing portion;

image forming means for forming the image on the raw card;

image-forming control means for controlling said processing information readout means and said image forming means; and

authentication information-writing means for writing individual authentication information of the authentication card in the information-storing portion,

wherein said image-forming control means controls an image forming process carried out by said image forming means for forming the image, based on the processing information read from the information-storing portion.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original): A card-making system according to claim 18, wherein said image forming means includes:

a printer mechanism for printing the image on an ink image-receiving sheet by using a sublimable dye ink,

an overlaying mechanism for overlaying the ink image-receiving sheet to a surface of the raw card after printing, and

a thermal transfer mechanism for thermally transferring the sublimable dye ink from the ink image-receiving sheet onto the surface of the raw card by heating the ink image-receiving sheet after completion of overlaying.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

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23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original): A card-making system according to claim 18, further including history information storage means for storing the processing information as history information of the authentication card.

29. (Original): A card-making system according to claim 28, wherein said history information storage means is formed by a personal computer linked to said processing information-writing means.

30. (Original): A card-making system according to claim 18, further including identification information-writing means for writing source identification information of the raw card in the information-storing portion.

31. (Original): A card-making system according to claim 18, wherein the information-storing portion includes a processing information-storing portion for storing the processing information, and an authentication information-storing portion for storing the individual authentication information, which have been formed in the raw card independently of each other.

32. (Original): A card-making system according to claim 18, wherein at least said processing information readout means, said image forming means, and said image-forming control means out of said processing information-writing means,

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said processing information readout means, said image forming means, said image-forming control means, and said authentication information-writing means are accommodated in a single casing to form a card-making apparatus.

33. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism for applying heat treatment to a card having an information-storing portion arranged in part of a surface of a card body to a card, by using a light source as a heating source, to thereby fix an image to the card,

wherein the heat treatment mechanism comprises a light-blocking plate which is arranged such that the light-blocking plate is positioned between the card and the light source to block irradiated light to the information-storing portion.

34. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism according to claim 33, including a light-diffusing plate interposed between the light source and said light-blocking plate, for diffusing the irradiated light from the light source.

35. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism for applying heat treatment to a card having an information-storing portion arranged in part of a surface of a card body of a card, by using a light source as a heating source, to thereby fix an image to the card,

wherein the heat treatment mechanism comprises a light-transmissive separation board arranged between the light source and the card, and

wherein said separation board has a mask portion provided in a manner associated with the information-storing portion, for blocking irradiated light to the information-storing portion.

36. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism according to claim 35, wherein said mask portion is a thin film formed by carrying out surface treatment by a dry process.

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37. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism according to claim 36, wherein the thin film is formed by depositing a metal material on said separation board by a physical vapor deposition method.

38. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism according to claim 35, wherein said separation board is formed by a light-diffusing plate for diffusing the irradiated light from the light source.

39. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism according to claim 34, wherein said light-diffusing plate also serves as an optical filter for allowing only light in an infrared radiation wavelength range, out of the irradiated light from the light source, to transmit therethrough, and said light-diffusing plate is formed of heat-resistant glass in the form of a flat plate arranged in parallel with the card.

40. (Original): A heat treatment mechanism according to claim 33, wherein the light source is formed by a halogen lamp which emits far-infrared rays as radiation in a main wavelength range.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)